

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

OPR-02 IO-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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O 311010Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9036

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 071691; (B) STATE 071765

1. I CALLED AGAIN LATE MARCH 31 ON VICE-MINISTER TOGO TO DISCUSS JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (A), I EXPRESSED OUR DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT GOJ FELT IT COULD NOT OFFER ASSISTANCE AND URGED THAT BEFORE FINAL DECISION MADE, IT RECONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR SOME CONTRIBUTION. I DREW ON INFORMATION PROVIDED REF (B) TO PLACE EVACUATION IN BROADER CONTEXT AND STRESSED LIKELIHOOD THAT PROBLEM OF REFUGEES WILL INCREASE IN MAGNITUDE OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. I EMPHASIZED, THEREFORE, URGENCY THAT THERE BE AVAILABLE DURING THAT TIME IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY VIETNAM SUFFICIENT ASSETS TO LIFT REFUGEES FROM OTHER COASTAL PORTS. IN THIS CONNECTION I REFERRED TO RECENT REPORT THAT THERE APPROXIMATELY 100,000 REFUGEES ALREADY IN NHA TRANG. I ALSO REVIEWED FOR VICE-MINISTER CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH ALREADY HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY OTHER  
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GOVERNMENTS. I SUGGESTED THAT SURVEY BE MADE BY GOJ OF

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL SHIPS WHICH MAY BE IN VICINITY AND COULD BE DIVERTED TO THIS PURPOSE. I ALSO SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERNMENT DISCUSS THIS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION SINCE IT SEEMED THEY MIGHT WELL BE RESPONSIVE TO HUMANITARIAN NEED.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY PRESENTATION, TOGO'S ONLY REMARK WAS THAT HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO WHAT MR. HANABUSA HAD CONVEYED TO ME ON MARCH 29. I ASKED WHETHER I HAD BEEN CORRECT IN REPORTING ON THE BASIS OF MY CONVERSATION WITH MR. HANABUSA THAT A FINAL DECISION HAD NOT BEEN REACHED AND THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE HIGHEST POLITICAL AUTHORITY. THE VICE-MINISTER SAID THAT IS CORRECT BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN I COULD EXPECT SUCH A DECISION.

3. COMMENT: I SUSPECT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE FEELS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE IN BEING UNABLE MAKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR A JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION AND HOPES TO AVOID BEING PRESSED FOR A CLEAR HIGH LEVEL DECISION WHICH IT FEELS WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGATIVE PRIMARILY FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL. SINCE I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GET TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS MATTER, THAT LEVEL REMAINS AVAILABLE IF WE WISH TO PRESS FURTHER. IN THAT EVENT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO STATE THAT I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE SECRETARY TO BRING THIS QUESTION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERSONAL ATTENTION. I AM NOT SANGUINE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD PRODUCE FAVORABLE RESULTS. BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER PROBABLY ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN EVACUATION EFFORT WILL DRAW CRITICISM OF HANOI AND/OR GIVE OPPOSITION AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE CONTROVERSY OF GOJ SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN VIETNAM.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PINT, AEMR, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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